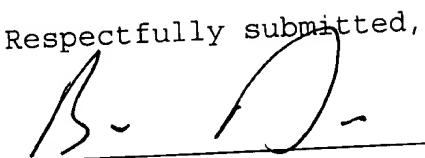


New claims 15-20 recite combinations of limitations  
previously recited by the multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian K. Dutton  
Registration No. 47,255

**RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, PLLC**

Lion Building  
1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 955-3750  
Fax: (202) 955-3751

APPENDIXCHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A moldable crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff, [characterized in that its] having a bulk density [being] in the range of from 0.01 to 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and [its] a crystallization peak temperature [being] in the range of from 130 to 180°C.

2. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin] prepuff of [according to] claim 1, wherein the crystalline aromatic polyester resin [containing] contains at least one unit of a unit derived from isophthalic acid or a unit derived from 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol in a total amount ranging from 0.5 to 10% by weight of the crystalline aromatic polyester resin.

3. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin] prepuff [according to] of claim 1 [or 2], further comprising a polytetrafluoroethylene resin in an amount ranging from 0.005 to 0.1 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the crystalline aromatic polyester resin.

4. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin] prepuff [according to any one] of claim[s] 1 [to 3, which is], obtainable by cutting a roamed extrudate.

5. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin]  
prepuff [according to] of claim 4, [which being formed into]  
having a generally cylindrical shape, [obtainable by cutting the  
foamed extrudate into pieces having] and a predetermined length,  
the foamed extrudate having a strand shape.

6. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin]  
prepuff [according to] of claim 5, [in which] wherein the melt  
tension of the crystalline aromatic polyester resin is  
[maintained to be] in the range of from 0.7 to 3.0g in the  
presence of a melt tension modifier.

7. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin]  
prepuff [according to] of claim 6, wherein an open cell ratio  
[being] is in the range of from 5 to 35%.

8. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin]  
prepuff [according to] of claim 4, [characterized in that its]  
having the bulk density [being] adjusted by [conducting a step of  
further] impregnating the prepuff [of any one of claims 4 to 7]  
with a gas under pressure at least [one time] once and  
re-expanding the prepuff prior to molding.

9. (Amended) The [crystalline aromatic polyester resin] prepuff [according to any one] of claim[s] 1 [to 8], having a crystallinity in the range of from 1 to 8%.

10. (Amended) A molded foam article, [characterized in that said article is] obtainable by filling a mold cavity formed by closing male and female mold members of a mold with the [crystalline aromatic polyester resin] prepuff[s] of [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 9], and [by] heating to further expand and fuse the prepuff[s] in the mold cavity.

11. (Amended) The molded foam article [according to] of claim 10, having an apparent density in the range of from 0.01 to 1.0g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a fusion ratio not less than 40%.

12. (Amended) A laminated molded foam article, [characterized in that said article comprises] comprising the molded foam article of claim 10 [or 11] and a film or sheet of an aromatic polyester resin on the article.

13. (Amended) The laminated [molded foam] article [according to] of claim 12, wherein a peel strength of the film or sheet from the molded foam article is not less than 5 N/23 mm.

14. (Amended) The laminated [molded foam] article [according to] of claim 12 [or 13], [which being] produced by [following the steps (1) to (4)]:

[step (1) of] placing a film or sheet at least in a male mold member and/or a in a female mold member of a mold,

[step (2) of] closing the male and female mold members,

[step (3) of] filling the mold cavity with the crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff [of any one of] of claim[s] 1 [to 9], and

[step (4) of] heating, thereby [to conduct] molding and laminating in one step.